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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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| COUNTRY | East Germany | REPORT | | 25X1 |
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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ARMY review completed.

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

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REPORT [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 26 Jan. 1955

SUBJECT 1. Political Indoctrination of Soviet Troops.

NO. OF PAGES 2

2. Listening to Western Broadcasts

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

REFERENCES:

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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Political Indoctrination of Soviet Troops

1. [REDACTED] with the 10th Sep. Gd. Bn., the men were required to attend four hours of political training each week. These sessions were held on Tuesdays and Fridays. The content of the lectures was rarely changed and the themes were limited. There were discussions of Lenin and Stalin, internal affairs, American "imperialism", and several other themes [REDACTED]. The classes were conducted by the Political Officer and, occasionally, the EM were brought into the discussions. 25X1
2. Occasionally, there were newspapers and pamphlets distributed to the men as reading material and often as guides for discussion. [REDACTED] there was a day room, known as the LenKommata (Lenin Room) where pamphlets, booklets, and brochures were placed. Reading material published as far back as 1944 could be still found. During the Beria purge, all reading material that mentioned Beria's name was removed from the day room by the Bn. Political Officer. The Political Officer [REDACTED] was to check all newspapers used to wrap quarters master items and to eliminate all papers that even mentioned Beria's name. 25X1
3. [REDACTED] there was no need for special political indoctrination films because all films, produced in the USSR and shown to the troops, had political implications. [REDACTED] there was little interest in the political lectures by the troops. Often, the men slept until they were caught or read books as long as the political officer was unaware of it. The only penalty for inattention was a verbal reprimand or, at worst, two or three days in the guardhouse. 25X1
4. The American soldier was always portrayed as a great sinner with no morals or principles. Further, that the EM of the US Army were from poor families and that all the officers were from rich families; the American soldier was paid to fight but did not know what he was fighting for. Many caricatures showed American atrocities in Europe, particularly one which showed an American Army vehicle speeding away and a 25X1

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pedestrian lying on the road. The connotation was that the vehicle had hit the pedestrian and the unmerciful American soldier had left him to die.

5. It was difficult for the Soviet mind to distinguish fact from fiction. Most men were so thoroughly indoctrinated with the Party line that anything they heard against the Party-line they considered a probable falsehood.

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6. [redacted] uniforms of the [redacted] armies were brought to the attention of the men during political classes; also, the T/O&E of various US Army units were introduced. Weapons, the number of men in various units, and fire power were discussed but he could not remember how often these subjects were brought up. [redacted] these classes were very comprehensive. During these lectures, no mention was ever made of any foreign broadcasts.

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Listening to Western Broadcasts

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7. [redacted] listened to the Voice of America and the Co-ordination for Anti-Bolshevik Struggle broadcasts frequently [redacted]

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[redacted] built a receiver set, while in Germany, and kept it in the barracks in the open to make it appear that it was only in the construction stage and would not operate. [redacted] described the reception on this homemade set as poor.

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8. The Co-ordination Center for the Anti-Bolshevik Struggle broadcasts came on the air at about 1100 hours. Voice of America came on in the evenings but [redacted] was not sure of the time. [redacted] did not know on what frequencies these stations operated because [redacted] had no dial on the receiver. [redacted] built this set from a schematic diagram [redacted] got from a friend who worked in the unit radio-repair shop as well as the parts for the set.

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9. [redacted] Soviet soldiers, at one time or another, heard foreign broadcasts but rarely discussed their content or expressed opinions on them. It was difficult to trust anyone and soldiers were afraid of being turned in; therefore, discussions were limited to small groups of not more than two or three men who knew each other very well.

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